

## **SUMMARY**

**BLOOMINGTON COMMISSION ON SUSTAINABILITY MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, OCTOBER 25, 2005 AT 5:30 P.M. IN THE MCCLOSKEY ROOM OF CITY HALL AT SHOWERS, 401 NORTH MORTON STREET, BLOOMINGTON, INDIANA**

### **Roll Call**

Members present: Robert Bent, Susan Brackney, Keith Clay, Christine Glaser, John Hamilton, George Huntington, Cairril Mills, Darryl Neher, Dave Rollo, Catherine Stafford, John West

Staff present: Danise Alano-Asst. Director of Economic Development  
Kären Sullivan- Intern, Office of the Mayor

### **Commission Members and Staff Introductions**

Bloomington Commission on Sustainability (BCOS) members and staff introduced themselves and indicated that they were excited to be a part of the group and eager to get started. Members were given binders which contained contact information, a copy of the ordinance which created the commission, definitions of sustainability and references for other cities that have created similar commissions.

### **Discussion of Sustainable Development Concepts**

Danise Alano advised the Commission that they should create their own definition of sustainability and a mission statement. She also discussed the Sustainability Indicators report that was created by a SPEA undergraduate class under the direction of Paul Schneller and the importance of providing the community with an annual report stating the level of sustainability that has been achieved in Bloomington. The legislation that created the Commission stated that such a report should be provided.

### **Discussion of Administrative Policies and Procedures**

Dave Rollo agreed to preside over Commission meetings until leadership positions for the Commission are elected (presumably for the next two meetings). Christine Glaser inquired about the relationship between the BCOS and the Environmental Commission (EC). Dave Rollo said the BCOS will maintain an open relationship with the City's many boards and commissions, including the EC. It was suggested that members of the EC and the BCOS should attend each other's meetings in order to facilitate the cohesive nature of the two groups.

Cairril Mills indicated that the group should focus more on tasks than on titles in order to achieve any goals that are established. Catherine Stafford suggested that the Commission focus on short term goals that can be accomplished in the first few meetings such as creating a mission statement and establishing the indicators that the Commission will use based on the indicators that were created by the Paul Schneller's SPEA class. There was a discussion involving the definitions of long and short term goals and measurements as well as whether the Commission should be focused on global issues or local issues, with

everyone agreeing that both need to be considered when establishing the goals and objectives of the Commission since the world is interconnected. Robert Bent pointed out that the BCOS must have a long-term perspective even when focusing locally on the short term.

The importance of community and public involvement was also discussed. Once sub-committees are established, the community will be called upon to help staff the sub-committees. The creation of City webpages on the Sustainable City Initiative and the BCOS was addressed. The Commission would like for the website to be used as a way to inform the community of the Commission's work, and to gather feedback from the Community as to what they see the important issues are that need to be tackled. Members agreed that the tasks and goals that the BCOS establishes must be measurable and quantifiable and will be used to track the progress of the Commission. It was suggested that the indicators should be used to establish the goals, mission and measurements that are created by the BCOS.

The Commission agreed that three ad-hoc groups were needed in order to move forward on the short-term goals before the next meeting. The three groups are: Mission Statement (John West, George Huntington), Indicators (Darryl Neher, Susan Brackney, Catherine Stafford) and Problems/Processes (Dave Rollo, Keith Clay, John Hamilton, Cairril Mills, Christine Glaser). Each group will report back at the next meeting with the progress that they have made. The Problems/Process group will discuss what they see are the major problems facing Bloomington's sustainability and also come up with a word other than "problems" to describe the challenges at hand. The Indicators group will look at the indicator report provided by Paul Schneller and decide what indicators may work best for Bloomington. They will also study other cities to see what they are using for indicators. The Mission Statement Group will work on creating a mission statement for the BCOS.

The next meeting will be held on Tuesday, November 8 at 6:00pm. The location will be determined and communicated to the Commission by Danise Alano. All subsequent meetings will be held on the second Tuesday of each month. The meetings will be limited to one and a half hours in length. A Public Comment period will be added to the next meeting's agenda. Dave Rollo also suggested that at subsequent meetings, members of the BCOS present on their area of expertise so that the Commission can learn more about the resources that are represented on the Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Kären Sullivan, Office of the Mayor, Sustainable Development Intern

*Approved November 8, 2005.*

